

70th Anniversary Celebration of Cursillo in Christianity Monastery of Lluch, October 18th, Mallorca, Spain

On October 18th in Mallorca a day long celebration was held to mark the 70th anniversary of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement. The celebration took place at the Monastery of Lluc, high in the mountains behind Palma. The Cursillo Movement was begun in 1944 through the drive of Eduardo Bonnín, its founder and over the years has travelled to every continent where there are now 45 million people who have lived the Cursillo.

Four hundred and fifty participants from different countries of the world gathered at the Monastery. While a large group departed towards Lluc from Caimari at 8.00am, some walked the steep 18 km mountain pathway while others opted to reach the shrine in buses from Palma. Once at the Monastery, the Cursillistas participated in the Apostolic Hour. This was followed by an address given by Lorenzo Marian, the president of the diocesan Cursillo Movement. He said: *"The main purpose of the Cursillo Movement, is to bring the figure of Christ to people through friendship. How could it be otherwise, the figure of Eduardo Bonnín who promoted the Cursillos since the first one was held in Cala Figuera Santanyi, although not formalized until 7 January 1949"*.

Today in Palma there is FEBA (Fundación Eduardo Bonnín Aguilo) that was created with the aim of disseminating and publicizing the thinking of the Cursillo Founder, in addition to preserving his work. Eduardo Bonnín travelled to many countries to promote the authentic Purpose, Mentality and Cursillo Method.

Several Mallorcan Cursillistas shared their different experiences of having been involved in the Cursillo Movement since the 1940s up to this day. This was followed by the participants walking the Way of the Cross up the steep paths behind the Monastery.

Gathering once more at the conference site, several Mallorcan Cursillistas entertained the participants with songs and jokes.

Lunch was a smorgasbord of a great variety of local foods provided by those in attendance. Following lunch there were more witnesses by those who had known Eduardo and one young woman who had never met him, having lived the Cursillo weekend after his death. A Cursillista from Mexico spoke on behalf of all those in attendance who had come from other countries. A slide show was presented of Eduardo's life showing pictures and scenes from his first communion, his time in the army, the first Cursillo in 1944, Cursillos that came afterwards, conferences, Cursillos of Cursillos, the I,II and III Conversations, world Ultreya's and meetings with Cursillistas on his many travels throughout the world. There were also pictures of his particular friends, those he made Group Reunion with and pictures of him with three different popes, Pope Paul VI, John Paul II and Pope Benedict.

The day ended with Mass celebrated by Bishop Salinas, bishop of Mallorca, in the basilica of the monastery of Lluc. The bishop received a resounding greeting from the Cursillistas due in part to his support of the movement, demonstrated by his impromptu attendance at the Ultreya in Palma on more than one occasion. At the end of mass as he gave the farewell blessing he

publicly announced that he was going to start the investigation for having Eduard Bonnin declared a saint although cautioning that it was a long and involved process. This was greeted by much joy in the congregation.

A particularly beautiful part of the celebration was the presence of many young children, the children of the Cursillistas, who were included in some of the events and it was they who brought up the gifts during the mass. It is these young children who are the future of the Cursillo of tomorrow; they will have grown up knowing Cursillo as part of their lives.

The day was greatly enriched by the kindness and friendship shown by the Mallorcan Cursillistas, who always live Eduardo's message of friendship with all. Through Eduardo and them the rest of the world learns what it is to live the Charism of Cursillo.